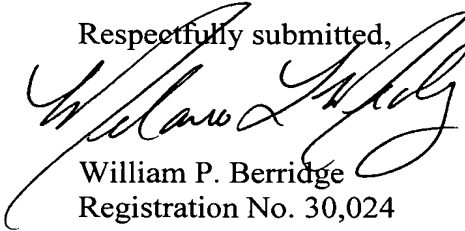


The amendment of paragraph [0051] does not raise new matter. The addition of "B)". is supported by paragraph [0052] which discusses the results of the alignment of HIV-2 A and B consensus sequences. Thus, paragraph [0051] clearly discusses the alignment of "HIV-2 consensus sequences (subtypes A and B)."

Early consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Melanie L. Mealy
Registration No. 40,085

WPB/SXT:amw

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: March 7, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Specification:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended paragraph:

[0051] The amplification products were purified with the QUIACQUICK PCR purification kit (Quiagen) and sequenced directly with the 3' RTD and 5' Prot 2.1 primers using the ABI Prism Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing kit (Applied Biosystem). They were analyzed with the Applied Biosystem 377 automatic sequencer and the sequences were aligned with the HIV-2 consensus sequences (subtypes A and B).